

REMARKS

Claims 70-98 are pending in this application.

Claims 70 and 94 have been amended by the present Amendment. Amended claims 70 and 94 do not introduce any new subject matter.

REJECTIONS UNDER 35 U.S.C. § 103

Reconsideration is respectfully requested of the rejection of claims 70-90 and 93-95 under 35 U.S.C. § 103(a) as being unpatentable over U.S. Patent No. 4,600,273 ("Ohno").

Applicants respectfully submit that Ohno does not disclose or suggest the at least one side of the insulator that is not bordered by the conductor, as recited in claims 70 and 94.

For example, Applicants' disclosure, in Figs. 5 and 14-15, shows an insulator 310 bordered by the black matrix 240 on one side, not by the conductor 220a, and, in Figs. 16-20, shows an insulator 310 bordered by the gate insulating layer 127 on one side, not by the conductor 129a.

In contrast to the claimed embodiments, the conductive particles 101 and 109 disclosed in Ohno include the non-conductive plastic balls or glass fibers 121, 123 completely surrounded by conductive layers of nickel 122, 124 and gold 125.

Moreover, there is no motivation to modify Ohno to include the claimed insulator that is not bordered by the conductor on at least one side. Indeed, modifying Ohno in this way would require substantial reconstruction and redesign of the core materials and methods for making same. Furthermore, such a modification would be contrary to the

objectives of Ohno of mass producing uniform and easily manufactured core particles prior to their application to the substrate.

For example, Ohno states that the non-conductive core particles, such as glass beads, glass fibers or plastic balls are formed by injection molding or by cooling after they are melted and passed through an orifice having a fixed diameter. As a result, cell thickness can be made uniform and the cost of manufacture reduced. See Ohno, col. 10, lines 24-31. Further, the core particles in Ohno are electroless plated in a plating bath to form a uniform layer around the entire core, and then added to the adhesive agent prior to application to the substrate. See Ohno, col. 4, lines 27-51, and col. 5, lines 10-16. Without hindsight knowledge from Applicants' disclosure, there is simply no motivation to modify Ohno's configuration and methods in such drastic fashion to develop the claimed embodiments.

Accordingly, Ohno does not disclose the claimed at least one side of the insulator that is not bordered by the conductor, and there is no motivation to modify Ohno to include same.

Therefore, Applicants respectfully submit that claims 70 and 94 are patentable over Ohno. In addition, for at least the reason that claims 71-90 and 93 depend from claim 70, and claim 95 depends from claim 94, claims 71-90, 93 and 95 are also patentable over the cited reference.

Therefore, Applicants respectfully request that the Examiner withdraw the rejection of claims 70-90 and 93-95 under 35 U.S.C. § 103(a).

ALLOWABLE SUBJECT MATTER

Applicants gratefully acknowledge the Examiner's indication that claim 98 is allowed.

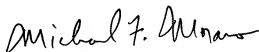
Applicants gratefully acknowledge the Examiner's indication that claims 91-92 and 96-97 would be allowable if rewritten in independent form to include the limitations of the base claim and any intervening claims, and reserve the right to rewrite claims 91-92 and 96-97 in independent form in a subsequent response or communication.

DEPENDENT CLAIMS

Applicants have not independently addressed the rejections of all the dependent claims because Applicants submit that for at least similar reasons as why the independent claims from which the dependent claims depend are believed allowable as discussed, supra, the dependent claims are also allowable. Applicants, however, reserve the right to address any individual rejections of the dependent claims should such be necessary or appropriate.

An early and favorable reconsideration is earnestly solicited. If the Examiner has any further questions or comments, the Examiner may telephone Applicants' Attorney to reach a prompt disposition of this application.

Respectfully submitted,

A handwritten signature in cursive script, reading "Michael F. Morano", written in black ink.

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